



*FOCAL*

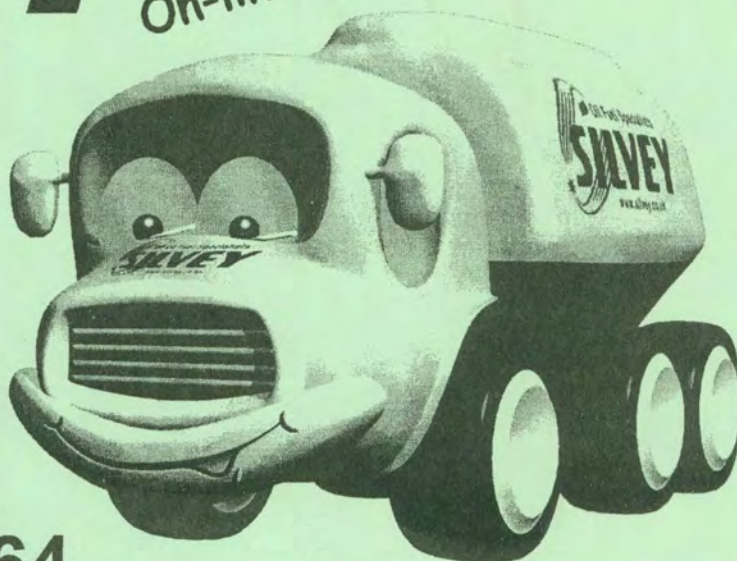
*POYNTZ*


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or Mobile 07933 514030  
for further details

# ALL OCCASIONS

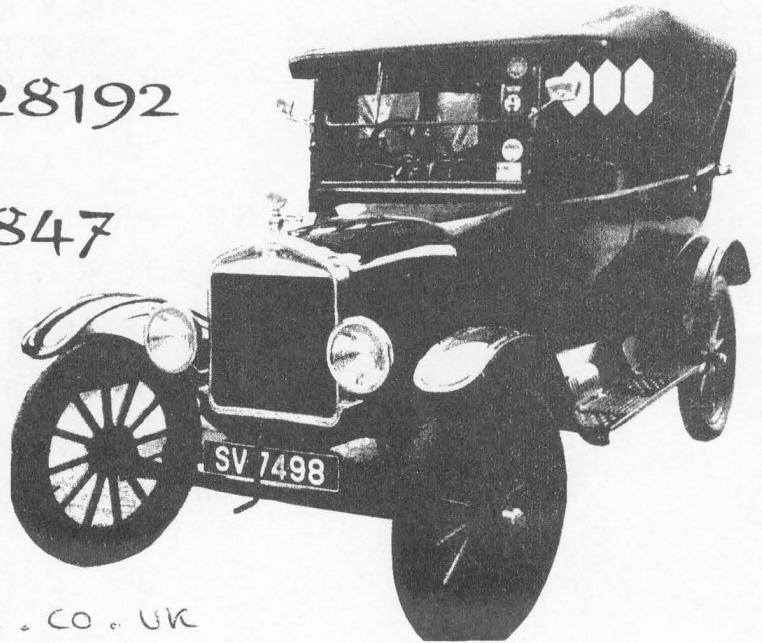
CHAUFFEUR DRIVEN, VINTAGE CAR HIRE

Tel No: 01454 228192

Mob: 07909 646847

337 North Road

Yate, Bristol.



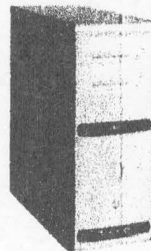
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Welcome to the Summer 2007 issue of Focal Poyntz. We hope you like the drawing on this page - believe it or not, this isn't a new drawing ..... we haven't used it for ages because it hasn't been appropriate for a number of years and hopefully we'll now be able to return it to the back of a drawer for the next few summer editions!

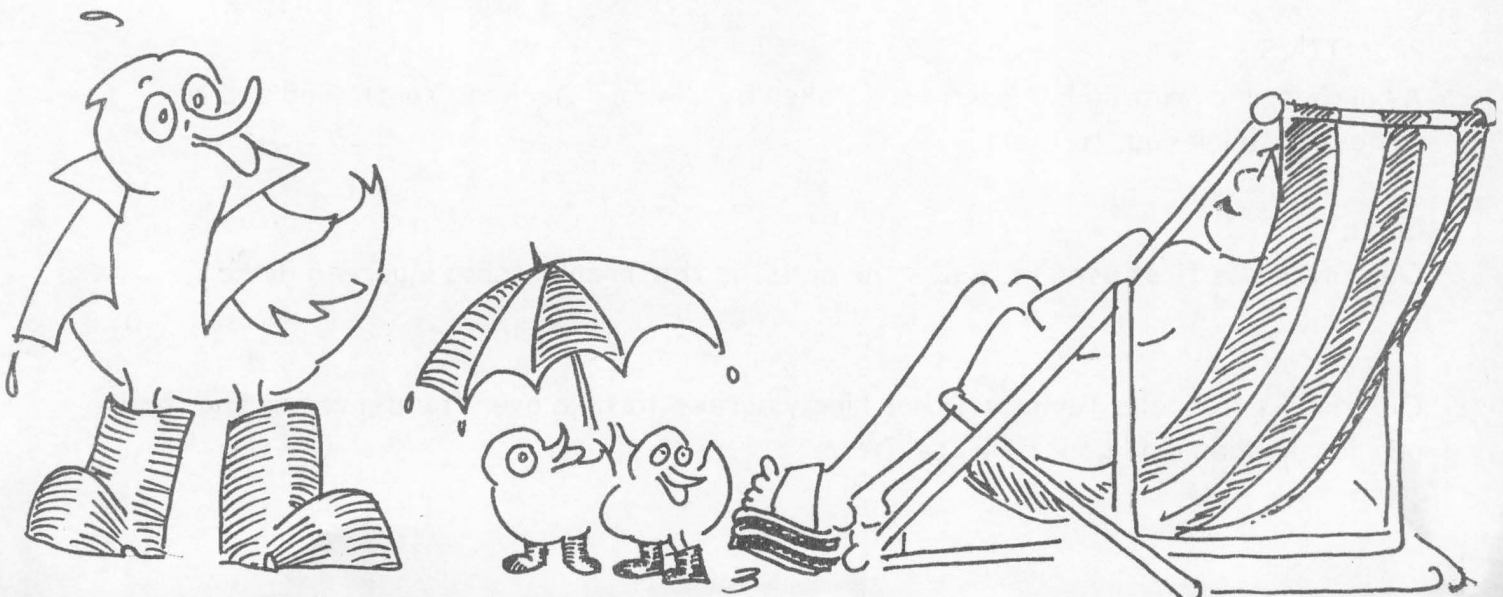
As we prepared this edition the forecast was promising that summer would eventually arrive at some point in August - bearing in mind that the same "experts" had promised exactly the same for the middle of July and you'll understand why we're probably not holding our breath!

This time we have interesting articles from the Hunter Gatherers on their 4,500 mile trip to the Gambia (it's a real eye opener and it makes you realise how lucky we are) and from a group of a group of young parishioners who have shown courage in a different way by putting into print the issues they face.

Please remember to put the date of the Horticultural Show (Saturday 8 September) in your diaries - luckily gardeners won't have needed to water too much this year.

We are also hearing rumours of an exciting first for Iron Acton - a Victorian Evening in December, initial details are inside the magazine, and the Actonians will be concluding their 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary year with another incredible, not to be missed, pantomime .....

..... but that's all in the future, back to the present and we hope that everyone has an enjoyable holiday and we wish good luck to all those children starting at new schools in September.



## FOCAL POYNTZ INFORMATION

### Your Focal Poyntz Team is:

Lynne Blanchard  
228566

Maureen Blake

Paula Evans  
228419

Stella Taylor  
228417

Barrie Wright  
228247

Rona Wright  
228247

### Deliveries are ably carried out by:

Sheila Alsop  
Lynne Blanchard  
The Bradley Family  
Elizabeth Edwards  
Andrew Gowen  
John Griffin  
Chris Heal  
Roy Hubbard

Ashley Mee  
Sue Shepherd  
The Smith Family  
Stella Taylor  
The Walters Family  
Pete Wedgewood  
Mike Wheeler  
Barrie and Rona Wright

### ARTICLES:

If you've got any news or articles that you think we'd like to receive please contact any of the people on the numbers given above. We would love to hear from you!

### ADVERTISING:

If you would like to place an advert in future issues please contact Barrie Wright (228247) - our advertising "whiz" (£20 for a full page and £10 for a half page - invoices can be provided).

### ARTWORK:

We are very grateful to Maureen Blake for some more of her very special drawings to complement the articles.

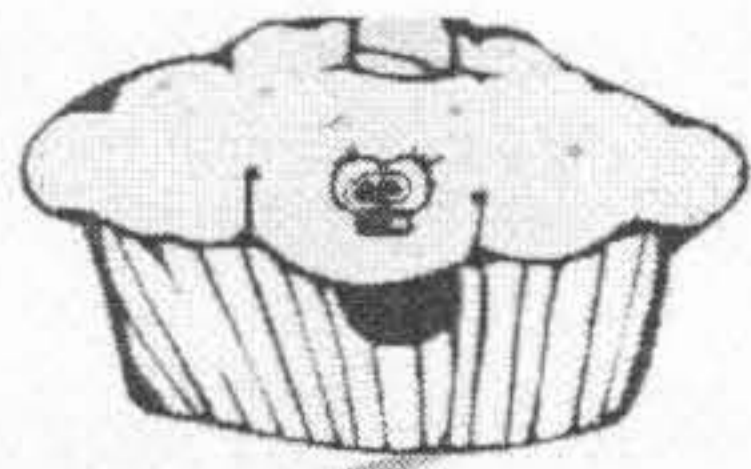
### PRINTING:

As always, our printing has been undertaken by Oldbury Deckers Youth Club and we say a big "thank you" to them.

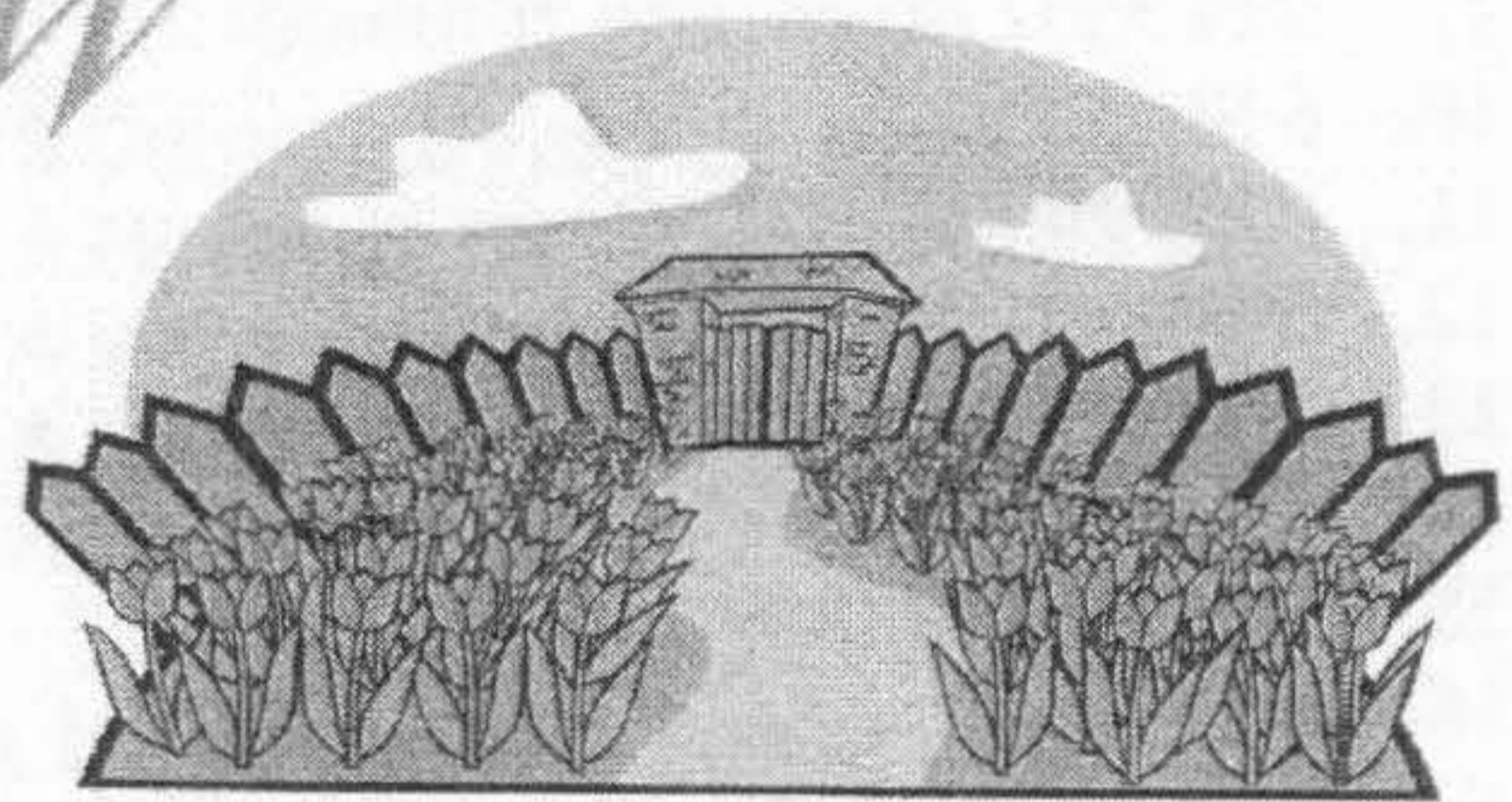
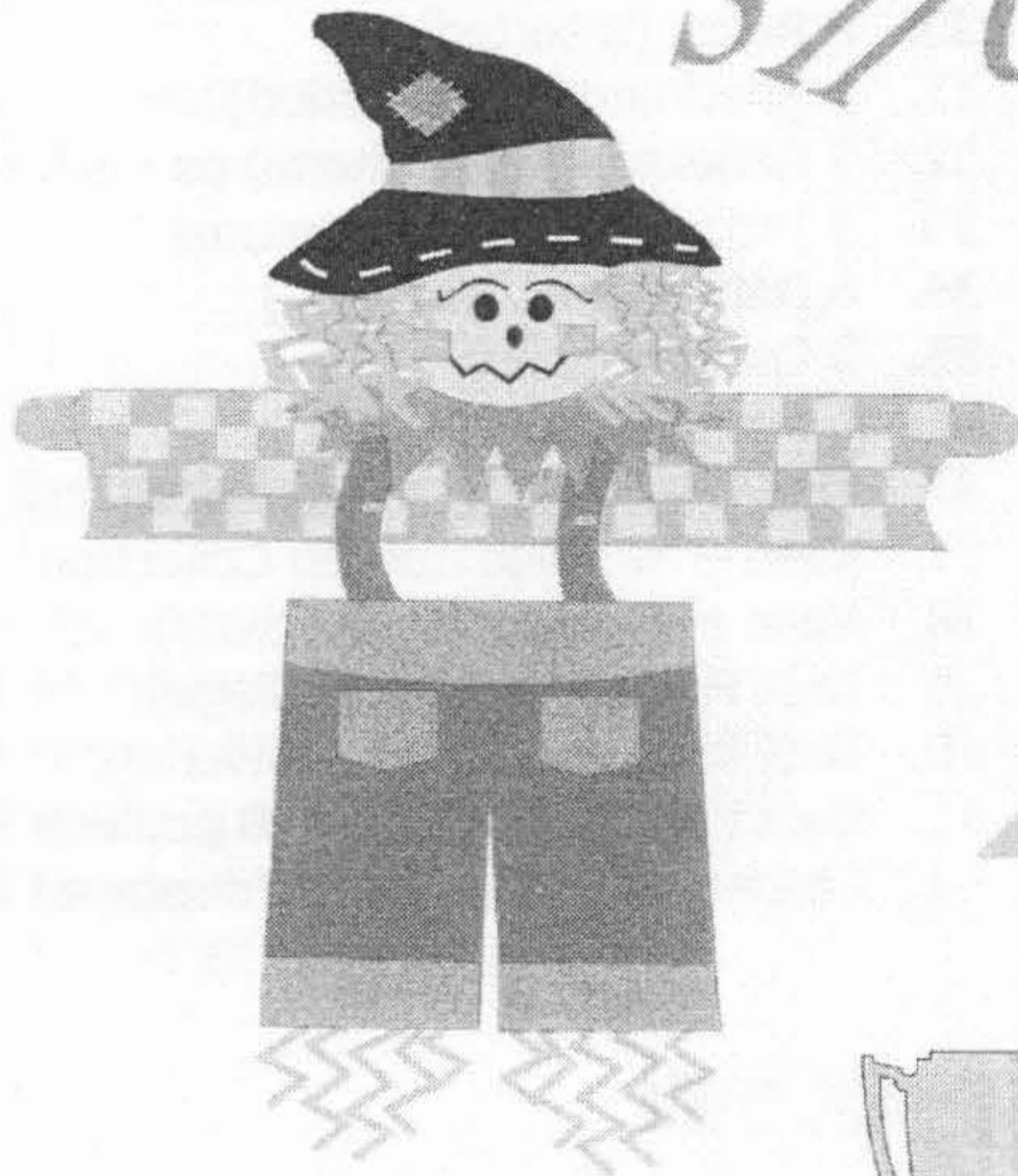
### COVER:

Our cover was first used in 1992 - the artist is the irreplaceable Maureen Blake.

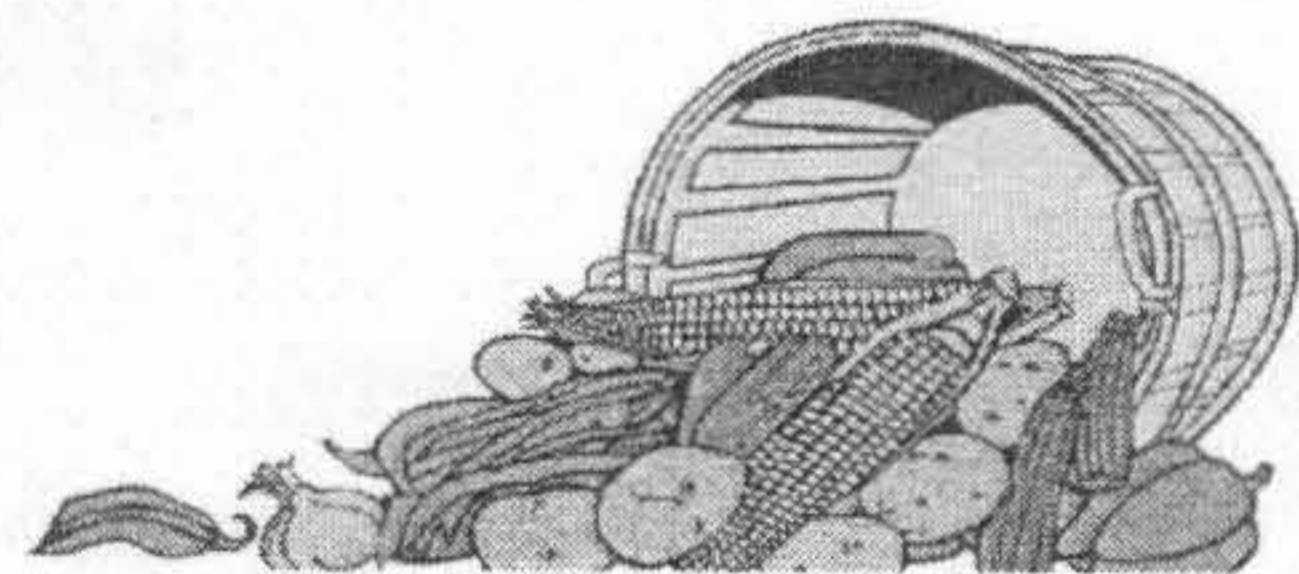
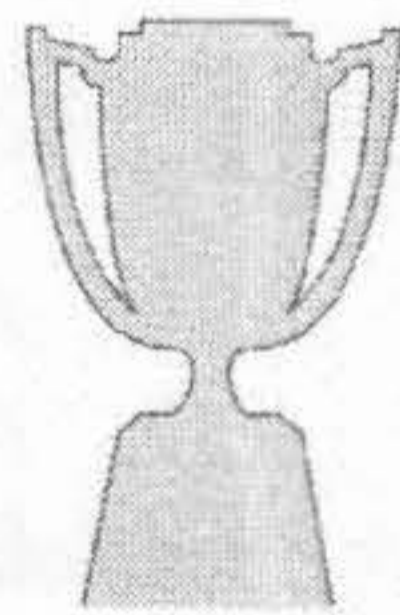
Our thanks to Stella Taylor who has kindly agreed to take over the deliveries that had previously been made out by Hazel Dron.



# Iron Acton Horticultural show



# 2007



**Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2007**

Front Cover Designed by Harry White

**Entries Accepted: 9.00am to 11.00am**

(Staging: 11.00am to 11.30am)

**Judging: 11.30am onwards**

**Show Open To Public: 2.30pm    Auction: 4.00pm**

Entries also on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> September between 5.00pm and 6.00pm

Prize Draw after the Auction

# Iron Acton Horticultural Show 2007

**Allotment Trophy** – Awarded for the Best Collection of Vegetables grown on an Allotment.

**Golden Jubilee Cup** – Awarded for the most entries in all Sections by any one family.

## GENERAL SECTION

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. Collection of Vegetables                | 24. 3 Blanch Leeks                             |
| 2. Collection of Salads                    | 25. 4 Apples (dessert)                         |
| 3. Collection of Fruits                    | 26. 4 Apples (culinary)                        |
| 4. Collection of Gourds, Squash & Pumpkins | 27. 4 Pears (dessert)                          |
| 5. 4 Potatoes (any 1 variety)              | 28. 4 Plums (dessert)                          |
| 6. 3 Carrots (long)                        | 29. 4 Plums (culinary)                         |
| 7. 3 Carrots (short)                       |  |
| 8. 3 Onions (from seed, trimmed)           |  |
| 9. 3 Onions (from sets, trimmed)           | 30. 6 Roses (assorted)                         |
| 10. 6 Shallots                             | 31. 1 Specimen Rose (named)                    |
| 11. 6 Runner Beans                         | 32. 3 Reflexed Chrysanthemums                  |
| 12. 6 French Beans                         | 33. 3 Incurved Chrysanthemums                  |
| 13. The Longest Runner Bean                | 34. 6 Dahlias (not over 2½")                   |
| 14. 2 Peppers                              | 35. 3 Cactus Dahlias                           |
| 15. 2 Cabbages (any 1 variety)             | 36. 6 Sweet Peas                               |
| 16. 2 Marrows                              | 37. Tied Bunch of Herbs (out of water)         |
| 17. Heaviest Marrow                        | 37. Vase – "Cottage Garden Collection"         |
| 18. 3 Courgettes                           | 38. Vase of Flowers (5-10 Stems)               |
| 19. 2 Cucumbers (frame or greenhouse)      | 39. Best Pot House Plant (foliage)             |
| 20. 6 Cherry Tomatoes (on the vine)        | 40. Best Pot House Plant (flowering)           |
| 21. 6 Tomatoes                             | 41. Best Pot Grown Cacti or Succulent          |
| 22. 3 Parsnips                             | 43. Largest Sunflower Head (displayed outside) |
| 23. 3 Beetroot                             |  |

## MECRAFT SECTION

- |                                |   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| 44. 6 Chicken Eggs             | 56. A Loaf of Bread                       |
| 45. 6 Eggs (any other variety) | 57. A Bakewell Tart                       |
| 46. 1 Pot of Jam               | 58. Presentation Box of Homemade Sweets   |
| 47. 1 Pot of Jelly             | 59. MEN ONLY – A Victoria Sponge (3 eggs) |
| 48. 1 Pot of Marmalade         |   |
| 49. 1 Jar of Chutney           |   |
| 50. 1 Jar of Pickled Onions    | 60. A Knitted or Crocheted Article        |
| 51. A Chocolate Cake           | 61. A Patchwork Item                      |
| 52. A Quiche                   | 62. A Kit Tapestry/Cross Stitch           |
| 53. Fruit Loaf (1lb)           | 63. An Original Tapestry/Cross Stitch     |
| 54. Plate of 6 Biscuits        |   |
| 55. 6 Fruit Scones             |   |

## FLOWER ARRANGING (ROSE BOWL TO WINNER)

65. Small Arrangement (not more than 12" high x 9" wide overall)
66. A Predominantly "Red" Arrangement
67. An Autumn Foliage Basket Arrangement
68. A Dinner Party Arrangement (including the candle)
69. Subject Arrangement – "Inn Signs"

## PHOTOGRAPHY SECTION (UNFRAMED, SIMPLY MOUNTED ON CARD)

70. Photograph of a Tree or Trees
71. Photograph of "Action"

## CHILDREN'S SECTION

### Up to & Including 4 Years

72. 6 Decorated Fairy Cakes
73. A Painting (any subject)

### Ages 5, 6 and 7 Years

74. 6 Decorated Fairy Cakes
75. A Miniature Garden
76. A Vegetable Animal
77. A Painting of "My Holiday"
78. A Junk Model

### Ages 8, 9, 10 and 11 Years

79. 6 Decorated Fairy Cakes
80. A Miniature Garden
81. A model of "My Ideal Bedroom"
82. A Painting of "My Favourite Day Out"
83. A Computer Poster Advertising Next Year's Horticultural Show

### Ages 12, 13 and 14 Years

84. A Computer Poster Advertising Next Year's Village Day
85. A Photograph of an animal, pet or bird
86. A Sewn Article
87. Painting, Sketch or Drawing

## ART & CRAFT SECTION

88. A Wooden Item
89. A Hand-Made Card (any size)
90. A Painting, Sketch or Drawing; Framed or Unframed, Any Subject
90. A Miniature Garden (Adult Class) Maximum 12" x 8"

## OPEN SECTION

91. A Scarecrow (any size – to be displayed at your home, visible from the road)  
Entries for this class to be made by telephone by Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2007 to any Horticultural Committee Member.

Meryl Cook  
Tel: 228405

Ann Aplin  
Tel: 228243

Paula Evans  
Tel: 228419

June Schofield  
Tel: 228760

Rona Wright  
Tel: 228247



Exhibitor No:

# Iron Acton Horticultural Show

Name:

\_\_\_\_\_

Address

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Entry Fees for All Classes:

**20p** first entry

**15p** all others

16 Years & Under:

**10p** first entry

**5p** all others

Class No:	Cost Per Entry:

Class No:	Cost Per Entry:

Class No:	Cost Per Entry:

I enclose the sum of £ \_\_\_\_\_ to cover the above entries and I agree to abide by the RULES as shown in this year's schedule.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Please bring this completed form to The Parish Hall on either Friday 7<sup>th</sup> September between 4.30pm and 6.00pm (for non-perishable items), or on the morning of the Horticultural Show.

**It is the responsibility of the Exhibitor to ensure that the correct entry number is placed with the correct exhibit.**

## AWARDS

**General Section:** The Hall Committee Rose Bowl will be awarded to the Competitor gaining the highest points, and the Gordon Powell Cup to the Competitor gaining the second highest. The St. James the Less Cup will be won by the resident of Iron Acton Parish who gains the highest points.

**Homecraft Section:** The Acton Aid Cup will be awarded to the Competitor gaining the highest points.

**Sections Having Their Own Trophies:** Classes in these sections will not be given points towards the General and Homecraft Section Trophies.

The Amateur Gardening Red Ribbon will be awarded to the most outstanding exhibit in the Show.

## RULES

1. Entry fees for all Classes:                      20p first entry                      15p all others  
16 Years & Under                                      10p first entry                      5p all others
2. Points are awarded as follows:  
Classes 1, 2,3 and 4                      1<sup>st</sup> – 8 Points                      2<sup>nd</sup> – 6 points                      3<sup>rd</sup> - 4 points  
Classes 5 – 69                                      1<sup>st</sup> – 3 points                      2<sup>nd</sup> – 2 points                      3<sup>rd</sup> – 1 point
3. Prize money as follows:-  
Allotment and Classes 1 – 4                      1<sup>st</sup> - £1.50                      2<sup>nd</sup> - £1,00                      3<sup>rd</sup> – 50p  
All Other Classes                                      1<sup>st</sup> – 70p                      2<sup>nd</sup> – 50p                      3<sup>rd</sup> – 30p
4. It is understood that all entries have been made or grown by the Exhibitor and have not been exhibited in any other show.
5. The Judges reserve the right to inspect the garden or allotment of any Exhibitor.
6. Any complaints must be made to a member of the Committee by 4.00pm.
7. Doors will be open at 9.00am on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2007 and all entries must be made before 11.00am. Non-perishable entries can also be accepted on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2007 at the Parish Hall between 4.30pm and 6.30pm.
8. Staging must be completed by 11.30am prompt when the Hall will be cleared for judging.
9. In Classes with 3 or less entries the Judges reserve the right to withhold any 1 or 2 prizes.
10. The Judges' decision will be final
11. Entries from all sections may be donated for sale at the Auction to be held after the Show, and gifts of any kind will be gratefully received.
12. Awards will be presented at 3.30pm and exhibits may be removed immediately afterwards. Any items remaining will be auctioned at 4.00pm approximately.

*We hope you enjoy the Iron Acton 2007 Horticultural Show*

*&*

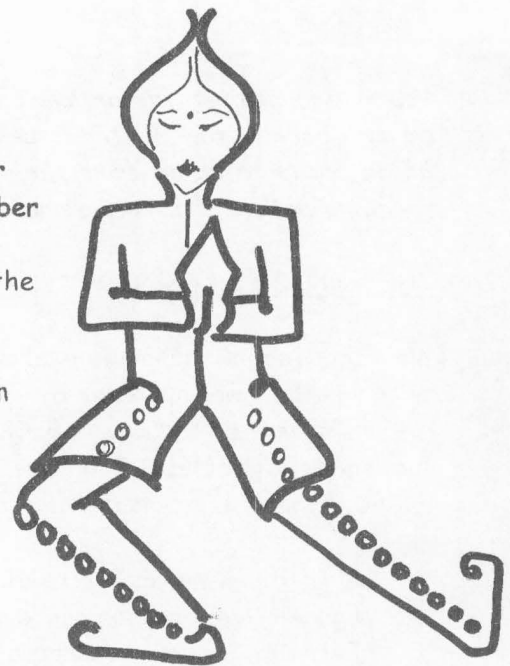
*Thank You for your continued support*

## IT'S PANTOMINE TIME AGAIN ..... OH NO IT'S NOT!!!

The Actonians present "Aladdin" by Godfrey Laundry

Thursday 29 November, Friday 30 November, Saturday 1 December  
and Thursday 6 December, Friday 7 December, Saturday, 8 December

This year the Actonians will bring the story of Aladdin to the stage of the Parish Hall. As it's our special anniversary year we are performing over 2 weekends so you will all be able to come along. Pantomimes are always popular and this is one of the all-time favourites. How will we transform the Hall into the Orient ... will the Genie appear ... and will the magic carpet fly? You may be asking these questions ..... so are we! As I write this article those clever brains behind the scenes are busy trying to make the impossible happen. We have a great track record of filling the Hall with laughter and super effects and hope this show will keep up the standard. We are very lucky that the much talented Godfrey Laundry has written an original script and our Musical Director, Robert Pardoe, will be contributing some original numbers to the score.



So far the story is looking good . but this is where Iron Acton can play a part. We need lots of people for the crowd scenes and to sing in the chorus. We would love to have you join us for this fun production. Even if you have never been on stage before this is an easy way to sample the thrill of performing live to your friends and neighbours. Please come and join us. Rehearsals for the chorus/crowd scenes will be on our regular club evenings - Wednesday evenings at 7.30 pm, starting on 5 September. You'll be assured of a warm welcome.

The Actonians are proud of their association with the village and would be delighted if some of you could join us for the last of our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration productions. If you are interested please let any of the group know your name and phone number or call me, Bob Allen, the Director, on 01454 325192.

Bob Allen (01454 325192)



### ST JAMES THE LESS PARENT AND TODDLER GROUP

Our group of parents and toddlers continues to grow and change and it is with sadness that I write my last article - the last four and a half years have flown for Alicia and myself. The group is an important part of our village and the surrounding area as it introduces you to new mums and dads in exactly the same position as you and you really do make good friends (who can support you when you are blubbing at the school gates in September!!).

Rachel Taylor has taken on the role of Social Secretary and I am sure there will be many exciting activities for the parents as well as the children. We already have a theatre trip booked and thanks to the Mothers' Union we have our summer picnic arranged in Penny Percy's garden (weather permitting).

Our numbers drop in September when we say goodbye to Alicia, James, Alfie, Rowan, Joshua and Issy. We wish them all lots of fun at school. This means we have places free and if you live in Iron Acton or the surrounding area please give our friendly group a try. We meet every Friday, in the Marshall Room, from 10.30 am to 12.00 pm.

For further information please call Sally on 228037 or Mel on 228701.

Amanda Scott

*You may remember the article asking for old spectacles for Gambia back in the Winter issue of FP. The Hunters have happily returned from their mega-adventure and the following article gives a fascinating insight.*

### THE HUNTER GATHERERS

We wanted to let you know about our Gambia challenge and how much your help was appreciated. The good news is that our Postman Pat van made it all the way to Banjul in the Gambia and that when we auctioned it off after 4,700 miles for Gambian charities it raised £1060. - this is the synopsis of our 4,500 mile journey:-

- \* Ferry from Weymouth to St Malo
- \* Long drives through France and Spain to Tarifa, close to Gibraltar
- \* Ferry to Tangier in Morocco - 5 hours to clear customs
- \* Zig-zagged through Morocco due to poor signs and maps to Meknes
- \* Through the beautiful Atlas Mountains to Marrakesh.
- \* South through boring Western Sahara to Bedouin camp on edge of desert
- \* Difficult border crossings from Morocco into Mauritania - another 5 hours
- \* 3 days of sand storms and soft sand in the desert. Van regularly stuck in sand.
- \* Civilisation of sorts in Nouakchott - at least we had running water and showers
- \* Into Senegal with our compulsory customs guide. Lovely campsite called Zebrabra
- \* 29 car convoy through Senegal - 13 hour drive with only cakes and sweets to eat
- \* Night in the police compound for our safety at Senegalese border
- \* Hassled at the port. Long waits for Banjul ferry.
- \* Arrived safely in Banjul on 17 January. Yippeel!
- \* Police escorted Parade through streets of Banjul for all 40 cars
- \* First auction for group 3 cars raised £20K
- \* Second auction for group 3 cars raised £18K.
- \* All auctions this year should raise circa £175k for good Gambian causes.



Overnight accommodation included sleeping in the back of the van, camping (putting the tent up in the dark!), sleeping 30 to a Bedouin tent and sleeping in awful hovels with no running water. These were inter-dispersed with reasonable hotels and motels.

As you can probably tell, it was pretty demanding especially with the added concern of whether the van would make it through the desert in particular. The roads varied from good tarmac to dirt tracks with massive potholes - one car got written off when the wheel fell into a 3 foot deep pothole at 50mph. We had to be towed a couple of times as a result of further overheating - a result of sand getting in the electrical connections. We even got fined 10 Euro for being towed in Senegal - just an excuse for a bribe by the Police! Otherwise all the mechanical incidents were fairly minor. Our biggest difficulty was getting through the desert. We were just too heavy for the soft sand - 1500 pairs of specs weighed us down considerably!

The sand storm, the worst for 2 years, was unpleasant - like standing in a sand blaster in temperatures of 40degrees. We were lucky to have such a good team who pushed, dug and pulled us out. They really got us through. 3 cars in other small groups had to be abandoned in the desert so we did well. At least 4 other cars had to be abandoned en route due to mechanical problems and drivers had a very expensive nightmare in terms of fines, being ripped off and problems at border crossings as a result. A few experienced theft of passports, money and equipment through mugging or theft. Two of these were in Spain!

The highlights for us were the sense of adventure: seeing places like Mauritania and Senegal, not normally on the tourist map, were fantastic - even being woken at 5am with the chanting for call to prayers over loudspeakers from the Mosques had its charm. We loved the camaraderie of the group who made it fun not arduous, however difficult it got.

We felt so sorry for the children in the Atlas Mountains in the snow without shoes and the poverty in the rural areas of Mauritania where goats are the most important currency. Children and some parents would line the road to wave as we drove passed. We gave away some cuddly toys and pens en route but it was very difficult to do this without attracting hordes of children with the danger of starting a minor riot! We know that the goods we delivered to the Gambia were really appreciated.

We took the medical supplies to a clinic in the Bush where they have a visiting nurse, cuddly toys to the nursery at a Mission which looks after children from remote villages so they can be educated. Camping equipment and tools were also donated for distribution by the Mission to the most needy.

Pens (from Nat West and Halifax) and money were given to Bijilo Junior School where they have 1100 children aged 7 - 13 and one football. They are trying to grow their own vegetables using the water pump which was broken -they have had no rain from October to June! They have a new building built from donations as a new computer centre, but as yet no computers to put in it.

Finally we donated the 1,500 pairs of spectacles to the Banjul teaching hospital where they have 4 ophthalmists who will grade the glasses and ensure they are given away free through their clinics in the remoter bush areas. Every pair of glasses was being recorded so that none would go missing! Some sun glasses were grabbed by the security guards at the hospital - apparently they are a status symbol!

The money from the Plymouth Banjul Challenge auctions is focused on sustainable tourism and sports projects: 20% goes to help small businesses e.g. training (ASSET), 20% to the Gambia National Olympic Committee (GNOC) which also helped finance a team of Gambians in the Commonwealth Games in Manchester, and the remaining 60% is distributed by a local committee to worthy local projects in tourism or sport. It is a well run organisation who care passionately about training, educating, helping locals to help themselves. We are confident that all these donations have made a real difference - one of the benefits of delivering charity direct to where it's needed.

The adventure was one of the toughest things we have ever Done but also one of the most rewarding and enjoyable.

Thank you so much for your support.

Richard and Christine Hunter (aka The Hunter Gatherers)



## IRON ACTON WI

Our meetings have continued with a diverse range of speakers. The most interesting of these was a lady called Tina Free, a jewellery designer who now exhibits at the Tate Modern in London. She came to explain how she took the plunge into the world of design, where she sources her precious stones, the ideas behind the eventual designs and also brought her work along for us to see and purchase if we so desired (we did!).

In April we hosted the Spring Meeting for 100+ members of the Sodbury Vale Group of WIs - each institute takes it in turns and we'd got out of practise since we last hosted it 6 years ago! We still have one more event to organise in October but that's much more informal. This meeting begins with many formal items - acceptance of accounts, minutes, institute reports .... after which we're in dire need of light relief and this year it was provided by Richard Lewis from Radio Bristol who had us in tears of laughter with his anecdotes and humour. A lot of arm twisting had been needed to get him to agree as he loves the anonymity of the radio studio but is much less comfortable facing an audience .... but we were so desperate for a good speaker that we couldn't let him say no and, bless 'im, he reluctantly agreed (luckily we go back a long, long way as we were at the Ridings together and we've periodically kept in touch ever since). We also provide a plated finger buffet, pudding and

coffee - which our sterling little band did with military precision. Ticket price was just £2.50 ... and we even managed to make a profit to carry over to October! Gordon Brown's "Prudence" could well be a member!

In the next few months we'll be preparing for Christmas, when we'll (hopefully) learn how to make door hangings, ribbon bows and cards (this is in September as it usually takes us a long time to produce anything that looks remotely decent), we then get a visit from Slimbridge Soaps in October - they'll be explaining how the company came to be, how soap is made and we'll have an opportunity to buy items from their range - having seen and smelt these in the craft tent at Berkeley Show I can't wait! Our Birthday Party is in November and our AGM in December. Several long serving committee members have indicated they would like a year or two's gap from official duties and so we may have a fairly torrid time at the AGM trying to get people to offer their services and we've had to gently remind people that they've got to think about what we're going to do, it just isn't an option to bury our heads in the sand in the hope that things will resolve themselves.



Maybe it's a sign of getting older, but happy occasions now, only too often, seem to mingle with times of sadness and the WI experienced such sadness when one of our favourite ladies, Nora Kingscote, died earlier in the year. Nora was a joy to know; a deliciously gentle sense of humour, coupled with total reliability, a whizardry with the cake tin and someone who would give an honest opinion that was always tempered with kindness. Nora had been a WI member for so many years but had spirit and a joy of life that someone in their thirties would envy. Meetings certainly aren't the same for me now, knowing the door isn't going to open and I won't see Nora's calm presence and twinkly eyes advancing into the room. She will be sadly and greatly missed.

Lynne Blanchard / President

### IRON ACTON PARISH COUNCIL

There have been a number of changes and a great deal of activity within the Parish Council over the past few months. As you will be aware, an election for the Iron Acton Ward took place on 3 May. Our new Parish Councillors now have several meetings under their belts and a list of Parish Councillors and their contact numbers are given below:

North Road Ward	Bob Sheppard	(Chairman)	228515
	Ann Applin		228243
	Howard Gawler		228516
	Bob Lomas		228327
Iron Acton Ward	Peter Bellis	(Vice Chairman)	228065
	Lynne Blanchard		228566
	Chris Heal		228498
	Dave Taylor		228714
	Rachel Weldrake		228674
Clerk to the Council	Paula Evans		228029

### Parish Meadow

Our contractor continues to cut the grass in the meadows on a regular basis. However they have recently reported that there appears to be an escalation in the dog fouling problem with owners not clearing up after their animals - both in the meadow and the play area - despite bins being provided. The play area has to be a dog free zone - which is why it is fenced. It is difficult to know how to tackle this problem because as a Parish Council we are responsible for providing a play area that is free of fouling. We have contacted the South Gloucestershire Dog Warden who has provided us with notices that we can put up. If anyone witnesses owners not clearing up after their dogs please ring me. The new play equipment is on order and we hope it will be installed before the school summer holidays.

### Tennis Courts

The Parish Council has arranged for the tennis court lines to be repainted. We have also installed new posts and nets because the previous nets were so badly damaged. Nearly £900 has been spent on bringing the tennis courts up to scratch for the benefit of parishioners. We are currently looking into the cost and installation of a basketball hoop

### Chilwood

There have been (and continue to be) tremendous problems in the Chilwood area with raves, damage to gates and fences and inappropriate use of bicycles and motorbikes. All of these activities are being reported to the police as and when they happen. The Parish Council is in the process of wording and ordering signs to be erected in the woodlands area so the police have the power to act and potentially prosecute wrongdoers. Chilwood was given to the parishioners of Iron Acton for their enjoyment and has been designated an area of ancient woodland.

Please, if you witness any damage taking place or inappropriate behaviour, report it to the Crime Record Unit at Avon and Somerset Police. The number is 0845 456 7000.

### North Road

Unfortunately our notice board has been continuously vandalised. We are arranging for it to be taken away for repair which hopefully will sort the problem out.

### Allotments

There has been some wanton damage to the Nibley Lane allotments. This has been reported to the police. This sort of incident is such a shame as allotment holders devote many hours to the upkeep of their plots.

### Neighbourhood Watch

I have been asked to mention that our co-ordinator, Jack Russell, and his family will be leaving the village this summer for pastures new in Canada. If there is anyone who would be prepared to take on this role please let me know so that I can forward your details. As you know, members of neighbourhood watches enjoy lower house insurance premiums with some insurers. There have also been a number of break-ins within the parish recently. These burglaries have happened during the day so please be vigilant.

### Chilwood Green Play Equipment

You may recently have seen in the Lib Dems Focus magazine a proposal to install play equipment on the green. Parish Councillors have had representations made to them about this and a number of concerns have also been raised. It has been decided to canvass residents in the immediate area to gauge the overall opinion. A questionnaire is being prepared and when responses have been received these will help the Parish Council to make an informed decision.

### Parking

South Gloucestershire Council has now taken over responsibility for parking enforcement from the police. If you witness any parking infringements please let me know or get in contact with the Council.

### No Smoking

As you will all be aware, the smoking ban came into force on 1 July in respect of any enclosed public place. It was surprising to learn that the ban will also cover bus shelters therefore signs have been put up in the shelters in the parish.

Please feel free to contact me on the number given above or via e-mail ([paula@y-gorlan.wanadoo.co.uk](mailto:paula@y-gorlan.wanadoo.co.uk)) regarding any issues that you come across.

Paula Evans / Clerk to the Council (228029)



## NORTH ROAD LADIES CLUB

The North Road Ladies Club has been very well attended this year and has had some excellent speakers.

In February Reg Porter brought along his beautiful slides entitled Springtime in Kerry. These were accompanied by music, which made for a really enjoyable evening.

Wonderful slides on British Wild Owls and a talk by Ian McGuire was a delight for our March meeting. Ian's emphasis was on conserving the natural habitat and old barns for the protection of wild owls. Many special nesting boxes have been put in carefully selected areas where there is suitable feeding habitat. After the slides Ian introduced us to his own beautiful Barn Owl called Misty - which had been rescued when tiny.

Bruce Hall, Chairman of the Cotswold Canal Trust, gave a most enthusiastic talk in April. He used a series of illustrated slides to take us on a journey along the 37 miles of waterways from Saul Junction to the River Thames that the trust is committed to restoring.



In May John Osbourne entertained us with Music and Verse, singing and reciting several of his poems. John is a farmer from Weston near Bath and most of his verses are based on his life and experiences on his farm. Any proceeds from the sale of his books and from visiting organisations, such as our Ladies' Club with Music and Verse, go to Cancer Research and John's local church.

At our June meeting members were intrigued by the slight of hand of Tony Griffiths. The Art of the Magician is a talk/show presentation that explores various aspects of the magician's art in an entertaining way. Of course there was a fair amount of audience participation which made for lots of laughter.

We always have an evening trip for our July meeting and this year we will be travelling by coach to the Bristol Blue Glassworks for demonstrations, followed by a buffet.

Our programme for the remainder of this year is as follows:

Monday,	3	September	The Story of Old Snuff Mills - slides and talk by John Bartlett.
Monday,	1	October	Patagonia and Tierra del Fuego (Land of the Big Feet) - slides and talk by Bernard Tapp
Monday	5	November	Our 40 <sup>th</sup> birthday Celebrations
Monday	3	December	Christmas Past and Present with Susan Marshfield and our AGM followed by an American Supper.

We continue with our bring and buy stall at each meeting to raise funds for the Frome Opportunities Group - which is our charity for 2007.

Our meetings are held at North Road Community Primary School, commencing at 7.30 pm. We are always happy to greet visitors, so if anyone is interested in attending any of our meetings please do come along and, of course, new members are most welcome.

June Rycroft / Secretary



# ALADDIN WORDSEARCH

new    pantomime                    treasure    aladdin    princess    lamp  
 old                                    widow twankey                                    audience    carpet  
 genie    rub    songs    tickets    music    evening    cave  
 seats    fun    open    laundry    magic    open    stage

E	R	U	S	A	E	R	T	B	C	E	Y
T	I	C	K	E	T	S	H	C	A	V	E
N	E	C	N	E	I	D	U	A	L	E	K
H	E	M	I	M	O	T	N	A	P	N	N
A	C	I	S	U	M	B	U	R	R	I	A
T	L	C	K	G	E	N	I	E	I	N	W
S	T	A	E	S	D	F	W	E	N	G	T
T	S	R	D	R	O	Y	R	M	C	P	W
A	G	P	Y	D	W	P	A	L	E	M	O
G	N	E	G	F	I	G	D	K	S	A	D
E	O	T	U	L	I	N	L	W	S	L	I
F	S	N	O	C	R	Y	O	P	E	N	W

Have some fun with this easy wordsearch

All the words featured above are concealed in the squares - except one!

Find out which word is not included and you could win a pair of tickets for the first Saturday of our run. The winner will be selected from all the correct answers.

Send your answers to:-

**Mrs Ann Aplin, The Clove Hitch, High Street, Iron Acton.**

## HORTICULTURAL SHOW

The date for the 2007 Horticultural Show is looming ever closer! Saturday, 8 September should be a date that is fixed in your calendar! Plans are well in hand for this year's show and we are hoping that all of the green fingered, crafty, flower arranging and culinary talented residents of Iron Acton will rise to the challenge.

A copy of the schedule and an entry form are enclosed with this edition of Focal Poyntz and we hope that everybody will find a class that appeals to them. Please remember that all the classes in the general, homecraft, photography and flower arranging sections are open to all ages and we were delighted to have a couple of younger horticulturalists entering the show last year. Please also remember that if anyone is in doubt about how to present their entry then just give one of the committee members a ring to clarify.

So, here's looking forward to plenty of sunshine, just enough rain and not too much wind throughout the forthcoming growing season!

PS Please, if you have any cups or trophies lurking in a cupboard (or anywhere else) ..... can we have them back - they need to be engraved.

HAVE YOU GOT A  
CUP OR ROSE BOWL  
ANYWHERE?



Paula Evans / Horticultural Committee

## FRIENDS OF IRON ACTON SCHOOL

Thanks to everyone who came to the Curry Night back in March. It was a great evening with superb, traditional Indian cuisine and live music from local group The Taylor Brothers.

I hope you enjoyed the children dancing on May Day. Despite the showers the children put on a fantastic display with lots of effort from both the children and the parents who teach the dancing and organise it on the day.

By the time you read this the children will have had their Summer School Prom at the Parish Hall when all the children dress up in their finery and dance the night away and the school Summer Fete will also have taken place. This year it's scheduled for the evening of Friday, 20 July, has a Disney theme and the children can dress up and parade in their favourite Disney costumes. There will be lots of Disney themed stalls, activities and games. A Disney themed art competition will be judged by a local art society and the highlight of the evening will be a police helicopter landing on the school field.

This term The Friends helped reorganise and update Class Three by organising the removal of old work surfaces and providing lots of new storage cupboards. This has significantly increased the space and storage facilities in Class Three making it a much nicer environment to work in for both the teachers and children. Our next project is to provide much needed new computers.

The Friends would like to welcome all the new children and their parents to the school in September. We also say farewell to all those children in Year Six who are leaving at the end of this summer term. We wish them every success in their new schools.

Tracey Lynton-Jenkins / Secretary



## THE ACTONIANS 40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY DINNER

I have been a member of the Actonians since just before the turn of the century (doesn't that sound a long time ago!). It is a wonderfully friendly and welcoming company in which it has been very easy to feel at home and I thoroughly enjoy the team work, camaraderie and commitment that goes into the productions that we put on each year. Through the ongoing archive work (carried out both painstakingly and lovingly by Ray Bulmer) we also maintain a real sense of the history and development of the group, much of which is available on our excellent website ([www.actonians.org.uk](http://www.actonians.org.uk)). Therefore there has been a considerable sense of anticipation for this 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary year and the rather clandestine activities of the sub-group committee charged with the responsibility for planning the celebration. Those plans were made manifest on the evening of Friday, 8 June 2007 and what an excellent event it was.

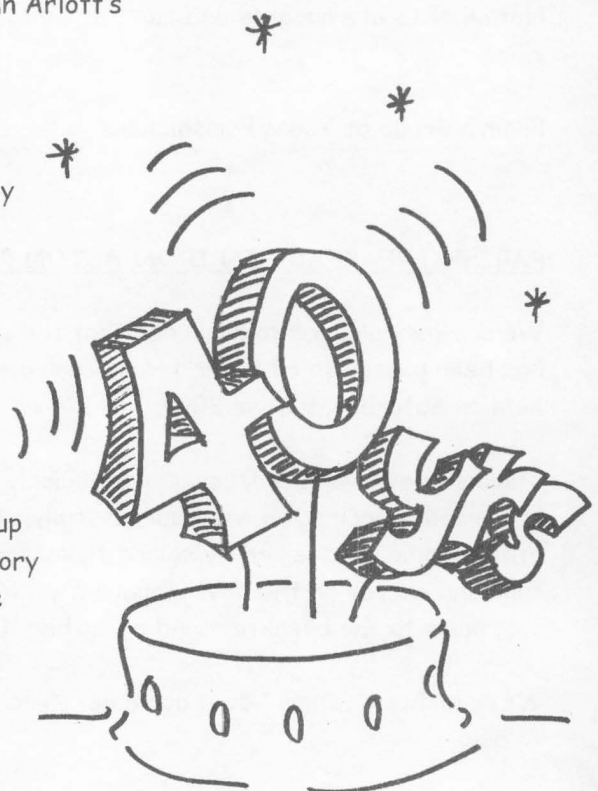
We celebrated our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with an Anniversary Dinner at the Cross Hands Hotel in Old Sodbury. Over 90 people (Actonians past and present, friends and associates) gathered in the main dining area sufficient numbers to ensure that we had the place to ourselves. The first surprise of the evening was that there was an organised seating plan and each place setting was personalised with a small pair of glass framed photos showing 2 roles that each member (past and present) had played. This was a lovely touch and provoked many reminiscences and much laughter as the pictures were examined and stories told. Then we ate, and what a splendid meal it was: asparagus spears and hollandaise sauce, salmon and mixed salad, roast beef with plentiful vegetables, a baked Alaska and coffee. After each course guests would get up and move around the dining room meeting up with old friends and sharing memories so the whole meal had a wonderful informality to it whilst being in the fairly formal atmosphere of an hotel dining room. Alongside the joy of meeting up with new and old friends, Ray Bulmer had also created a wonderfully engaging display from 40 years of archive material which told the story of the group from it's early beginnings in the 1960s to its current place in the annals of Bristol and Avon amateur drama. This was pored over throughout the whole evening and generated great pleasure for all.

Steve Birch, the current Chair, opened the next part of the proceedings with a reflection of the history of the group with a number of anecdotes and memories from the previous 40 years. This was simply the precursor to the main speaker of the evening who was John Inverdale, one of the BBC's main presenters of sports programming and, rather more importantly on this occasion, an erstwhile member of the group. His opening line of "Ladies, Gentlemen and Fellow Actonians" was greatly approved of by the entire gathering. John entertained us with a fine speech covering both his early memories of rehearsals in the local pub, and further anecdotes from his more recent past. It was perfectly judged in terms of length, and expertly delivered with a very passable impersonation of John Arlott's Hampshire burr in the telling of the final story.

John then invited us all to stand and raise our glasses in a toast to the Actonians. The final surprise of the evening was the gift of an engraved glass with the Actonians' logo and 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary for all those present; a delightful memento of the evening.

There was a general reluctance to leave after the end of the formalities. Stories continued to be shared, faces from the past continued to be recognised and remembered, laughter continued to echo across the dining room and bar and the company of friends continued to be enjoyed into the night.

It is a hope devoutly to be wished that the Actonians Drama Group also continues to grow and flourish so that further such celebratory milestones can be enjoyed. Huge thanks go to all those who made such a wonderful evening possible and particularly to the special sub-committee (you know who you are) whose meticulous planning was so richly deserved.



*The following article was written by a regular contributor to Focal Poyntz. It followed a conversation with some of our young people and some subsequent investigations but the words and thoughts are the youngsters' own. Times change, sometimes not for the better - some of the FP committee can remember attending brownies, guides, a youth club - the skills gained only become apparent later in life, sometimes you don't even realise that you have imperceptibly changed for the better ... It automatically leads to the question what will happen in future generations. Does anyone reading FP feel like responding?*

### CHILDHOOD .... THE TIME OF YOUR LIFE?????

Just where are we supposed to play? Where are we allowed to have some fun in the fresh air, to meet our friends and to exercise?

It's dangerous for us to ride our bikes on the road (even though most of us have passed an official cycling proficiency test). Adults drive through the village so fast and come up so close behind that it is frightening. We sometimes think they believe they are at Brands Hatch! They also park their cars in such silly places that it makes it difficult for us to pass. The speed limit through the village is 30 MPH. Even when we walk on the pavement there are certain places on the High Street where, if 2 cars meet, they have to use the pavement as part of the road.

If we go to the Parish Meadow and play on the play equipment there is every chance we will step into dog poo. You talk about us children being irresponsible!

If we go to the village green we get told off for making a noise, we get told off for riding our bikes because we might damage something. We get told off for playing football because the football might just do some damage to the parked cars or might just go through a window. If we haven't got an adult with us you don't want us to be there because we might not be up to any good.

Our parents won't let us go down to Chilwood because they've heard there are adults and older children there with guns and somebody found a knife used for cutting down the trees. Our mums used to take us down there when we were very little to play Pooh Sticks under the bridge, we used to watch for the badgers and play hide and seek in the bushes and trees but now it's all been damaged by others who don't respect the wood, it's so sad

Not all of us are naughty and most of us do know right from wrong so just where are we supposed to go and play?

From a Group of Young Parishioners

### PARISH BREAKFAST IN IRON ACTON PARISH HALL ON 9 JUNE

We are very pleased to announce that the sum of £1,468.00 has been passed to St Peter's Hospice from the Parish Breakfast held on Saturday, 9 June 2007.

Thanks to everyone concerned, particularly Di Heal who organised it once again, very successfully. Also to the many other people who helped by selling tickets and giving their time and energy on the day. Apparently 196 tickets were sold prior to the breakfast and a further 100 on the door.

We're all hoping Di will do it again next year so please be ready to help.



## MAY DAY 2007

Despite all the fears about the weather, the 2007 May Day Celebrations went swimmingly! Although the day started a little damp, as soon as the May Queen and her Attendants came into the ring the rain abated and Mrs Fursman was able to declare the celebrations open, without having to use her umbrella. Thank you, Mrs Fursman, doing the honours for us. Thank you also to Katie, Lucie and Molly for looking so pretty on the day. Well done to Rob Pardoe, who was our MC for the day, and our appreciation also goes to all the organisations who provided entertainment, food, drink and stalls for the day. Without your support the May Day Celebrations just wouldn't happen.

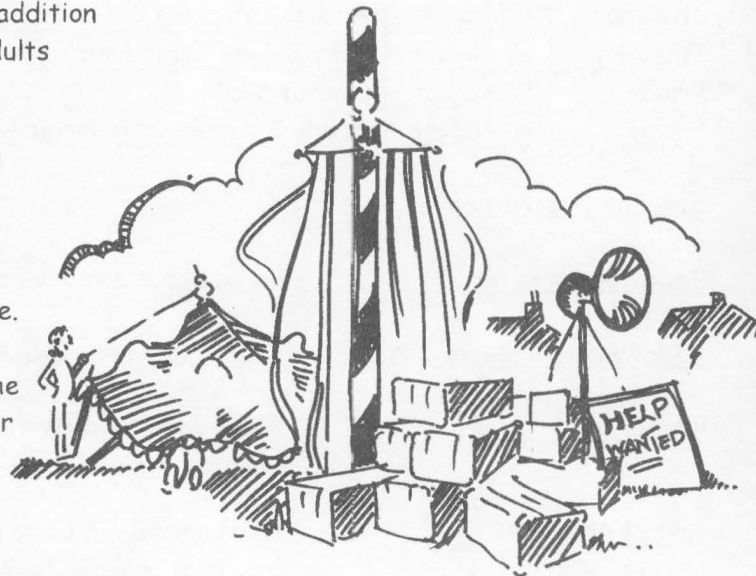
As usual, the day was well attended and there seemed to be a continuous queue at the food and beer tents. Although, at one stage, I think everyone was just standing there for the warmth from the barbeque! We were delighted to see so many stalls at the Farmers' Market and the Committee hope you found this an interesting addition to our annual celebrations.

The Junk Band demonstration was an extraordinary addition to our ring events and it was great to see so many adults volunteering to have a go.

The Committee is still in the process of gathering all the proceeds from the day and we hope very much that we will be close to last year's amount - which, as you know, will be distributed amongst the organisations represented on the May Day Committee.

It is always useful to have extra pairs of hands on the May Day Committee so if anyone would like to join our busy band of volunteers please get in touch.

Paula Evans / Secretary (228419)



## MUSIC WITH MUMMY

The summer holidays are fast approaching and I know you will be looking for things to do with the children. Look no further - on the back of this page you will find our 2007 Summertime Specials timetable.

I have selected various days of the week so hopefully as many of you as possible can come to at least one of my "specials". These consist of approximately 40 minutes of singing in the Hall and are followed by either refreshments or a picnic. They are always great fun and something to look forward to in the holidays when most things stop. Siblings are welcome and those up to 7 years must pay for a place. Well behaved older siblings are also welcome and can be my helpers! On my schedule I have indicated suitable ages for the various specials.



Please feel free to bring friends and family, the more the merrier. I am also keen to attract any new customers for September .... so let all your friends who may be interested know the dates.

Any problems or questions, please give me a call.

Anne-Marie Collier

## MUSIC WITH MUMMY

Day	Date	Special	Suitable Age	Time		Cost
				From	To	
Wednesday	1 August	Pirates and Princesses	18 mths to 7 yrs	10.00 am	11.00 am	£4
Wednesday	1 August	Jolly Babies Picnic No 1	3 mths to 18 mths	11.30 am	1.00 pm	£5
Thursday	2 August	Look at Me No 1	9 mths to 5 yrs	10.00 am	11.00 am	£4
Thursday	2 August	Teddy Bears Regatta Picnic No 1	18 mths to 7 yrs	11.30 am	1.30 pm	£5
Monday	6 August	Wheels on the Bus Favourites	9 mths to 5 yrs	10.00 am	11.00 am	£4
Monday	6 August	Teddy Bears Picnic	18 mths to 7 yrs	11.30 am	1.30 pm	£5
Tuesday	7 August	Animal Antics No 1	2 yrs to 7 yrs	10.00 am	11.00 am	£4
Tuesday	7 August	Jolly Babies Picnic No 2	3 mths to 18 mths	11.30 am	1.00 pm	£5
Thursday	16 August	Animal Antics No 2	2 yrs to 7 years	10.00 am	11.00 am	£4
Thursday	16 August	Jolly Babies Picnic No 3	3 mths to 18 mths	11.30 am	1.00 pm	£5
Friday	17 August	Look at Me No 2	9 months to 5 years	10.00 am	11.00 am	£4
Friday	17 August	Teddy Bears Regatta Picnic No 2	18 mths to 7 yrs	11.30 am	1.30 pm	£5

### Specials Description

Teddy Bears Picnic: Songs about a teddy bears picnic followed by a picnic outside with paddling pools.

Teddy Bears Regatta & Picnic: Teddy goes to a regatta, followed by a picnic outside with paddling pools.

Pirates and Princesses: Songs about a party for the pirates and princesses, fancy dress optional, followed by squash and biscuits.

Animal Antics: What animal will come out of the song sack? Lots of songs all about our favourite animals, followed by squash and biscuits.

Wheels on the Bus Favourites: Lots of songs that we all know and love. Suitable for some of our older jolly babies, followed by squash and biscuits.

Jolly Babies Picnic: We'll start with a picnic, have a little paddle in the pools and then sing a selection of our favourite songs.

Look at Me: Very simple songs all about our bodies. Also suitable for some of our older jolly babies, followed by squash and biscuits.

### Additional Notes:

*Please note that for health and safety reasons I will no longer serve tea and coffee, only squash - but you can bring your own hot drinks in a flask should you wish.*

*If coming to a picnic the paddling pools will be out. Please note that you must supervise your children at all times. Bring blankets to sit on, towels, sun cream and hats.*

*Places are limited and will be allocated on a first come first served basis. Payment must be made before the end of term.*

*Friends and family are all welcome, but must be booked and paid for in advance.*

*In case of rain the picnics will take place in the Hall.*

*If you have any questions please contact me on 01454 773267 or e-mail me on [annemariacollier@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:annemariacollier@yahoo.co.uk).*

## STEINER KINDERGARTEN

Hidden away at Cromhall Village Hall there is a local Steiner Kindergarten, which has grown out of three parents' desire for something natural and gentle for their children. It is the only provision like it in the area, families come from many nearby towns and villages, including Wotton, Thornbury, Cromhall, Iron Acton, Yate, and Charfield.

So what can you expect from a Steiner Kindergarten? The focus of the kindergarten is on creativity and imagination rather than facts and learning goals. It is a holistic, organic and nurturing environment.

*One parent commented: 'I know without a doubt that the careful thought behind every detail of the kindergarten life has a positive impact on my daughter. It weaves its magic around her and brings out the best in her, allowing her to flourish and bloom.'*

The kindergarten is run by Clare Benson, a fully trained Steiner Teacher, along with an assistant. The kindergarten is always a hive of activity but is never over stimulating. In a Steiner kindergarten the children learn through imitation and imagination. The rhythm and routine of the morning are very important. It helps the child feel safe and secure in the knowledge of what to expect next.

The child will be drawn into the kindergarten with a carefully prepared main activity: Painting on Monday; baking on Tuesday, modelling on Wednesday, drawing on Thursday. After that comes free play with toys made of natural materials. The children might play with simple dolls in the home corner or become involved in building an elaborate house boat out of tables, stands and cloths. This time encourages initiative, co-operation and imagination. The children will all help each other with tidying the room ready for circle time. Circle time takes place with seasonal singing and rhymes. Next comes snack time with a fully organic food, prepared together and then a walk, whatever the weather, in the lovely countryside around Cromhall. The morning finishes with a simple story and goodbye song.

The Mulberry Tree Steiner Kindergarten runs 4 mornings and 2 afternoons every week and also offers holiday care. It is fully OFSTED registered, receives nursery vouchers and is open for 3-7 years olds. We also run a toddler group near Yate and Nailsworth. If you would like to find out more please ring Clare Benson on 01285 831463 or visit the website [Mulberrytrees.org.uk](http://Mulberrytrees.org.uk)

## WELL DONE NORTH ROAD SCHOOL

Congratulations to North Road School following the latest Ofsted report. The report was very positive and the team noted how much the school had developed the curriculum to enhance it's appeal to the children. The school provides a broad range of activities such as music, gardening, school trips and charity work - all of which motivate the hundred pupils at the school, enriching the pupils' experience.

## VICTORIAN EVENING ..... Advance notice ..... you have been told!!!

Advance notice, and a date for your diary ..... we hear rumours that an intrepid band of individuals (some might say mad) is in the initial stages of planning a Victorian Evening for Saturday, 22 December, current projected timing is only from 1600-1800. Many more details will be extracted, if need be with anaesthetic, for the next edition of Focal Poyntz ... but write it on t he calendar NOW!

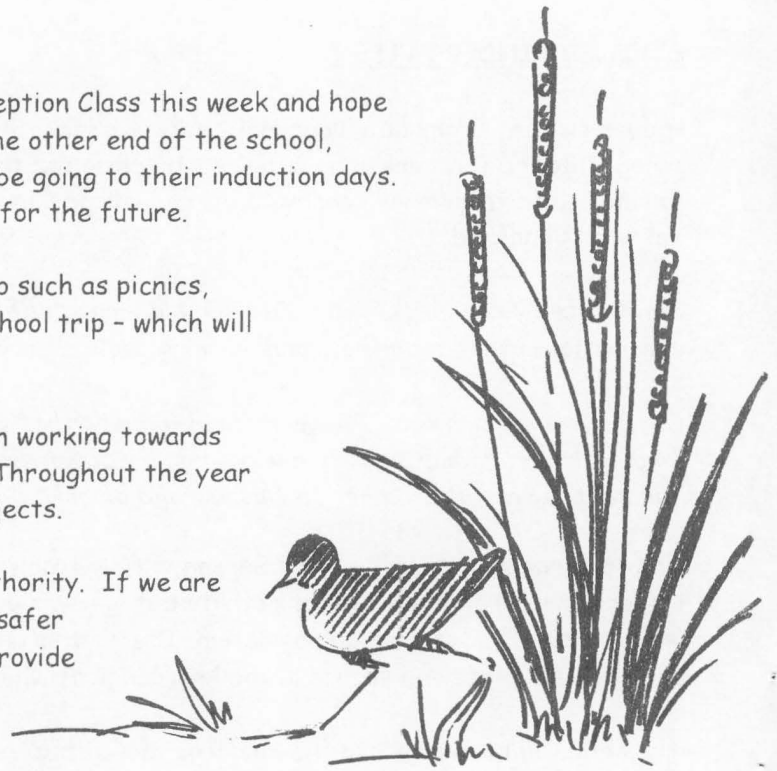
## IRON ACTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Well, where has this year gone? We met the new Reception Class this week and hope they will all be very happy at Iron Acton School. At the other end of the school, Year 6 has already met their new tutors and will soon be going to their induction days. We shall miss them all and wish them the best of luck for the future.

We still have lots of exciting events to look forward to such as picnics, PSHE week, sports day and the, ever popular, whole school trip - which will be to Slimbridge.

This year the main focus for the whole school has been working towards making school life healthier and safer for the pupils. Throughout the year Miss Baddeley has been working on 3 whole school projects.

Firstly we have submitted a travel plan to the local authority. If we are successful it will make pupils' journeys to school much safer whether they walk, cycle or come by car. It will also provide us with the funds for cycle racks, wellie holders and a covered waiting area.



Secondly we are working towards national health school status. This has involved many different activities and initiatives. All pupils now receive 2 hours of high quality PE a week, including a daily brain gym session which helps prepare them mentally for the day's work. They all love this activity and have become so good at it that they can run it themselves and will be demonstrating their skills at the celebration event in July.

Finally, we have been looking at different ways to improve the pupils' personal and social skills to help them better understand and manage their feelings and how to deal with playground and friendship issues.

Our kitchen goes from strength to strength under the guidance of our new kitchen manager, Julie Wilding. The highlights of the year must be receiving a 5 star food hygiene rating from the Environmental Health and Trading Standards, parents and grandparents have joined us to sample the new menus and the very successful 5-A-Day Week promotion when pupils tasted exotic fruit and vegetables.

With rising numbers space has become a real issue for the older pupils, who are packed like sardines into the mezzanine classroom. Two of our brave parents are completely transforming the classroom with new storage units and we are currently working with the local authority on an ambitious plan to extend the classroom to link up with the space in the old school house.

Pupils have continued to receive extra opportunities in music and sport. As part of the extended school projects after school clubs have been run for junk bands and Taiko drumming - we have also benefited from sports coaching in tennis, athletics and mini golf.

We have had another successful year working with other local small schools on joint projects. Working on a tree theme the schools joined for activities such as sculpture days, music workshops, environmental days and an arts festival. Some of you may have seen groups of pupils working in the Parish Meadow and school fields as part of a maths trail day. Last week Year 5 pupils from all schools met at Bradley Stoke School for a Small Schools Parliament with Steve Webb, our local MP.

On May Day the pupils did us proud. Nearly everyone turned up and, despite the weather, gave 100% to their performance. The maypole dancers were excellent. The mummer's play was a new venture and not the easiest of things to do in a large outdoor space. The 5 brave girls gave a perfect performance. A new venture was the junk band performance with Mike Hoddenot. This gave a real carnival feel to the festivities and certainly brightened up the afternoon.



This year will be a sad year as we say "goodbye" to some very special members of our team. Mrs Elmore will be leaving in August to take up the Deputy Headship at Crossways Junior School in Thornbury. We are also saying farewell to Dr Mansfield. She has worked tirelessly to support the school as a parent, member of the Friends, Chair of Governors, netball trainer, cycling trainer, supporter in class, maypole dance coach, transporting pupils to events and much, much more. We will miss both of them very, very much.

Jill Bendeaux / Head Teacher

### ACTON AID

By the time this edition of Focal Poyntz drops through your letter box the parish should still be talking about a successful 4<sup>th</sup> Proms in the Meadow. This year the event took place on Bastille Day and had a distinctly French feel to it. Rumour has it that the strains of La Marseillaise were heard as far as Petty France! Thanks go to the Bristol Millennium Orchestra who continue to support this event. This year Acton Aid was very pleased to engage the services of the internationally acclaimed tenor, Richard Allen, the Stapleton School of Dancing and our very own King of Swing, David Bate.



The proms remain the major fund raising event in Acton Aid's annual calendar. This year's event supported SSAFA (Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association) Forces Help - a national charity committed to helping and supporting those who serve in our Armed Forces, those who used to serve and the families of both.

Another date for your diary is for the Annual Bonfire and Firework Display which will take place in the Parish Meadow on 3 November 2007.

Acton Aid's ongoing programme of talks continues with future possible topics being Kilimanjaro, the medical officer to Scott of the Antarctic, native trees and their timber and Africa. Keep a look out for details of all future events which will be advertised on flyers posted around the village and kindly delivered with your newspapers by Dave and Pat Tailor.

Despite the inclement weather the burger bar and pig roast did a roaring trade at this year's May Day Celebrations.

On 14 June 25 members of Acton Aid enjoyed a tour of Acton Court followed by tea, cake and a chat at the end. It reminded everyone how lucky we are to have such a beautifully conserved building within our very own parish. Acton Court has a lot to offer with a full events programme running through to 18 August 2007. More information can be obtained from [www.actoncourt.com](http://www.actoncourt.com). Acton Aid would like to thank the Acton Court team for their kind hospitality.

Any parishioner who wants to find out more about Acton Aid is invited to contact one of the officers or call in and join us at the Lamb Inn at 8 pm on the first Thursday of each month. Meetings have the minimum of formality with fund-raising events and the distribution of resources discussed and planned over a pint or two.

Finally, if readers are aware of any parishioners who would benefit from the support of Acton Aid they are welcome to contact, in confidence, our Chairman (David McCoy on 228874) or our Secretary (Peter Foote on 228674).

Peter Foote / Secretary (228674)

*Allegedly overheard at a recent Acton Aid Meeting ..... "Why've we had to get a Welsh Tenor" ..... "Cos we couldn't get two fivers" ..... the old ones are the best ones?????*



## IRON ACTON CRICKET CLUB

It's nearly the end of June as I write this and, due to the poor weather, we haven't yet managed to play a game this month. However, May was much better and we even had a fixture in April this year. Of the 4 games we've played we've won 2 and lost 2 - unfortunately, if past seasons are anything to go by, we should steadily decline from now on!

It's not usual that I single out an individual performance in my article but I thought I'd mention the game against Frenchay Hospital XI. Batting second in mid-May it was getting a wee bit dark and we were falling well behind the run-rate. It was the last over and Chris Tofts had only been in for a couple of overs. The first ball went for 6, then the next, then the next and then the fourth went for 4. At this point the Frenchay captain was getting a little concerned, not having realised that the target required off the last over was, unfortunately for us, 38. However, it added a bit of excitement to an otherwise unspectacular innings and it has laid down the gauntlet (quite appropriate for Chris who never wears batting gloves) for the Batsman of the Year Award.

Team selection this year has been a fairly straightforward process with only a few more members than the requisite 11 to choose from. Fortunately everyone seems keen to play regularly so raising a team hasn't been a problem. May Day this year didn't prove to be the recruiting ground that it has been in the past but we have gained one new player all the way from Australia; Steve's gradually getting to grips with the laid back nature of Iron Acton village cricket!

As always, if anyone would like a friendly game of cricket then don't hesitate to give me a ring on the number below.

Chris Bradley / Chairman (228559)

## VIEW FROM NORTH ROAD COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

I think the first thing to report is how enjoyable and well organised the Iron Acton May Fayre was. It has certainly become one of the absolute must do's in my son's social calendar. It was difficult to prise him away from the inflatable slide this year - but at least that kept him away from having to witness the embarrassment of his dad dancing around the maypole with 2 non-rhythmical left feet! Of course, at this point, I have to say well done to all the children who carried out their piece of choreography with great skill and jollity.

Life as ever has been very busy at North Road as we hurtle towards the summer holidays. Since my previous article we have enjoyed 2 theatre performances at school. The Image Musical Theatre Company performed Stig of the Dump, an excellent participatory musical which had everyone absolutely spellbound. Our end of spring term treat was an action packed performance of Treasure Island. We also invited the children's author, Rebecca Lisle (of Petrified and Copper fame, amongst other publications), into school during Book Week when all the children dressed up as a favourite book character and she gave a series of inspirational presentations, advising the children how to become confident young writers.

Our Year 5 children had a super time at the Iron Acton Maths Trail Day and also had a chance to develop their skills of sophistry at the Small Schools' Junior Parliament Day- when Steve Webb MP was our keynote speaker. I was very impressed with the enthusiasm and the manner in which the children were able to articulate their thoughts and ideas on a range of issues within their debating groups.

On the sporting front our football team won the Small Schools' Football Tournament, hosted by Redwick and Northwick School, and qualified through to the semi-finals of the South Glos Small Schools' Football Tournament. The netball team also battled through to the semi-finals of the netball tournament (which was hosted by North Road).



Congratulations go to a group of our Year 3 and 4 children who won their tri-golf event at the Spring Festival of Youth Sports Day and a well done to a Year 4 and 5 team who came seventh in the athletics section at the same event. Of course, one of the highlights for all the parents is the colourful spectacle of the opening parade and, this summer's was no exception, with an international theme, the North Road children all waved flags of Honduras.

The Year 5 children were hitting the ball for six at a recent kwik-cricket tournament at Chipping Sodbury Cricket Club - where some very impressive fast bowling was on display.

We have very recently purchased 6 table tennis tables with an extended schools' bid to add ping-pong to our repertoire of sporting activities.

The Friends of the School have also been very active. Firstly they generated lots of interest and fundraising with a School Duck Race. The local stream had enough volume for the children to splash around in and see the ducks on their way downstream to the finishing line. They have organised another successful Plant and Cake Sale at school and are currently very busy planning the Summer Fayre/Games Evening on our school field - this will be an event that's not to be missed. The Friends are also planning the End of Term Disco - which is always very popular with the children. We are soon to host another Car Boot Sale on the playground, where absolute bargains were to be had last time.

Our building project plans are moving ahead and we now have planning approval to soon being work on the kitchen refurbishment and new security measures that include a new reception lobby and a new staff room. This means we will be able to use the existing staff room for music, D&T and small group workshops.

The Year 6 children recently returned from their week's residential visit to the PGL Adventure and Study Camp at Barton Hall in Torquay. Blessed with a whole week of glorious sunshine, the children tackled the many challenges; including the high ropes course, abseiling, canoeing, raft building and archery amongst many others, with a positive attitude and they returned with a strong sense of achievement and accomplishment.

We have just had another Bike Breakfast and a Walk-to-School Week. Parents have been coming in to school to lunch with their children this term and we are soon to have a flutes performance and an art exhibition ..... and we still have our Sports Day to look forward to.

Almost another busy year over!

Mark Handley / Head Teacher

## ST JAMES THE LESS CHURCH

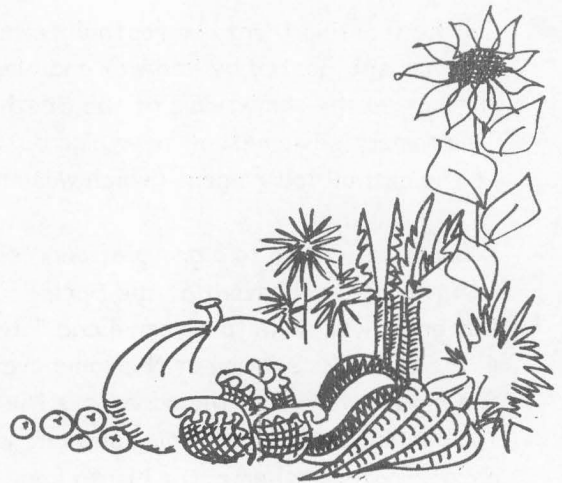
We welcome the Rev David Harrex as Priest in Charge of Iron Acton Church and look forward to our journey together.

### HARVEST FESTIVAL

HARVEST FESTIVAL FAMILY COMMUNION SERVICE  
will be on  
**SUNDAY, 23 SEPTEMBER at 9.00 am**

### THE PRODUCE AUCTION

will be on  
**MONDAY, 24 SEPTEMBER AT 7.30 PM**  
in  
The Lamb Inn, Iron Acton



Please make a note in your diaries of the following events which are being organized by St James the Less PCC in aid of church funds:

A FASHION SHOW (featuring clothing and accessories for ladies and children) .....  
On Friday, 12 October at 7.30 pm in the Parish Hall

### THE CHURCH CHRISTMAS FAYRE

On Saturday, 17 November at 2.30 pm in the Parish Hall

### A TALK ON WILLIAM TYNDALE

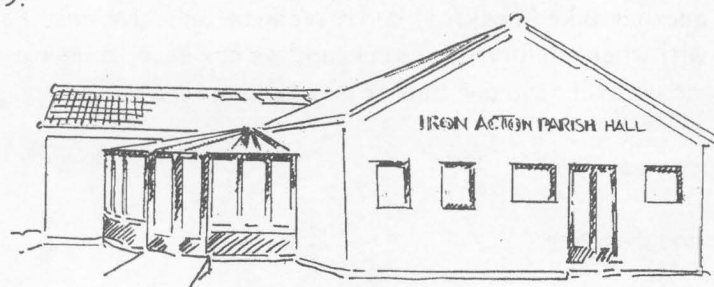
On Friday, 30 November at 7.30 pm in the Church



## IRON ACTON PARISH HALL

The Parish Hall Committee is looking for new members to join the management committee and, in particular, someone who would like to take over as Secretary at our AGM in September. The position involves minute taking at the monthly meetings and distributing them via e-mail but not anything to do with the bookings as Meryl Cook admirably handles all this. If you think you would be interested please contact Tony Pullen on 228949.

Angela Guest / Secretary





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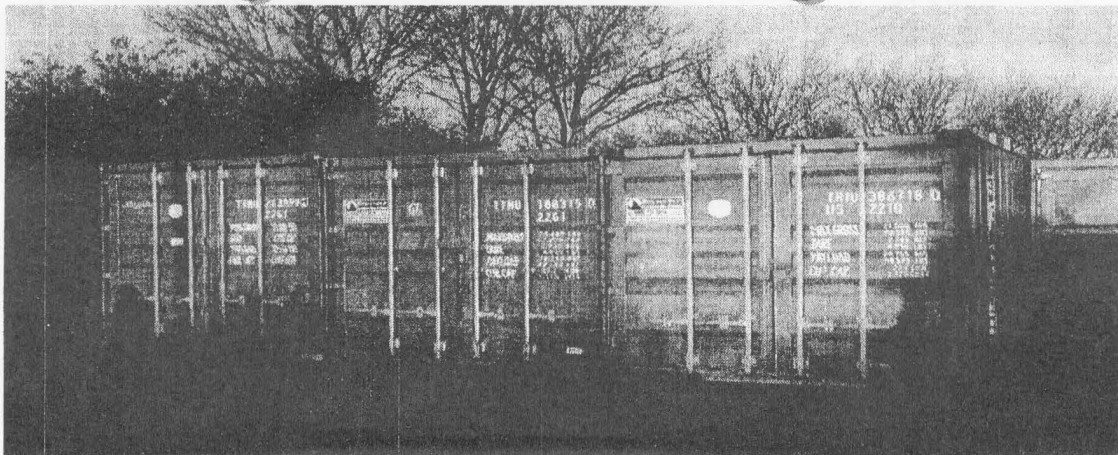
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